

CLAIMS

1. An encapsulated product, comprising:

- a) at least one active ingredient;
- b) at least one compressible material; and
- c) at least one lubricating material;

d) wherein said product is in the form of a caplet having a diameter from about 1 millimeter to about 7 millimeters and a length from about 1 millimeter to about 7 millimeters.

2. The encapsulated product of claim 1 wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: flavors, sweeteners, food additives, spices, herbal ingredients, non-herbal ingredients, vitamins, minerals, and mixtures thereof.

3. The encapsulated product of claim 2 wherein said active ingredient is at least one flavor.

4. The encapsulated product of claim 3 wherein said flavor comprises from about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of the final encapsulated product weight.

5. The encapsulated product of claim 4 wherein said flavor comprises from about 1% to about 15% by weight of the final encapsulated product weight.

6. The encapsulated product of claim 2 wherein said active ingredient is a blend of sweeteners.

7. The encapsulated product of claim 2 wherein the active ingredient is a sweetener or blend of sweeteners in an amount equivalent to one teaspoon of sugar.

8. The encapsulated product of claim 1 further comprising a coating over said caplet, said coating providing protection to said active ingredient.

9. The encapsulated product of claim 1 wherein said compressible material is selected from the groups of sugar,

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Sub A2>

fiber, polyols and mineral salts consisting of: dextrose, sugar, sorbitol, isomalt, maltitol, xylitol, lactitol, calcium phosphate, and mixtures thereof.

9 ~~10~~. The encapsulated product of claim ~~9~~ wherein said compressible material is sorbitol.

10 ~~10~~ ~~11~~. The encapsulated product of claim 1 wherein said lubricating material is selected from the group consisting of: fats, emulsifiers, waxes, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, talc, starches, silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

11 ~~11~~ ~~12~~. The encapsulated product of claim 1 wherein said diameter is about 3 millimeters and said length is about 3 millimeters.

12 ~~12~~ ~~13~~. The encapsulated product of claim 1 wherein said product provides controlled release of said active ingredient.

13 ~~13~~ ~~14~~. A method for preparing an encapsulated product comprising the steps of:

a) blending an active ingredient with a compressible material to form a compressible mixture;

14 ~~14~~ ~~15~~. b) mixing said compressible mixture with a lubricating material to form a final mixture;

c) compressing said final mixture into a caplet having a diameter from about 1 millimeter to about 7 millimeters and a length from about 1 millimeter to about 7 millimeters.

15 ~~15~~ ~~16~~. The method of claim ~~14~~ further comprising the step of incorporating said encapsulated product into a confectionery product.

16 ~~16~~ ~~17~~. The method of claim ~~14~~ further comprising the step of incorporating said encapsulated product into a chewing gum product.

17 ~~17~~ ~~18~~. The method of claim ~~14~~ further comprising the step of incorporating said encapsulated product into a pharmaceutical.

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<sup>17</sup>  
~~18~~ The method of claim ~~14~~<sup>13</sup> further comprising the step of incorporating said encapsulated product into a food item.

<sup>Sub A3</sup>  
19. The method of claim 14 wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: flavors, sweeteners, food additive, spices, herbal ingredients, non-herbal ingredients, vitamins, minerals, and mixtures thereof.

20. The method of claim 14 wherein said compressible material is selected from the groups of sugar, fiber, polyols and mineral salts consisting of: dextrose, sugar, sorbitol, isomalt, maltitol, xylitol, lactitol, calcium phosphate, and mixtures thereof.

<sup>18</sup>  
<sup>19</sup> ~~21~~. The method of claim ~~20~~ wherein said compressible material is sorbitol.

<sup>13</sup>  
<sup>20</sup> ~~22~~. The method of claim ~~14~~ wherein said lubricating material is selected from the group consisting of: fats, emulsifiers, waxes, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, talc, starches, silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

<sup>13</sup>  
<sup>21</sup> ~~23~~. The method of claim ~~14~~ wherein said diameter is about 3 millimeters and said length is about 3 millimeters.

<sup>Sub A4</sup>  
24. A method of delivering two flavor ingredients to an item selected from the group consisting of: a food item, a confectionery product, and a chewing gum product, said method comprising the steps of:

a) incorporating into said item a first encapsulated product containing a first flavor; and

b) incorporating into said item a second encapsulated product containing a second flavor.